

## **Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 83**

### **RESOLUTION CHAPTER 36**

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 83—Relative to Alcohol Awareness Month.

[Filed with Secretary of State May 30, 2014.]

#### **LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

ACR 83, Buchanan. Alcohol Awareness Month.

This measure would proclaim the month of April 2014 as Alcohol Awareness Month in California.

WHEREAS, Alcohol is the most commonly used addictive substance in the United States; and

WHEREAS, One in every 12 adults in the United States (17.6 million people) suffer from alcohol abuse or dependence; and

WHEREAS, Nationwide, 100,000 persons die each year from alcohol-related causes, including, but not limited to, drinking and driving crashes, other accidents, falls, fires, alcohol-related homicides, and suicides; and

WHEREAS, Alcohol-related problems cost the United States \$224 billion (\$746 per person) in lost productivity, absenteeism, health care costs, crime, and family-related problems; and

WHEREAS, In 2012, 28 percent of all traffic deaths in California were a result of drinking and driving; and

WHEREAS, In 2010, underage drinking in California cost the state and its citizens \$6.8 billion, including medical care and lost time at work; and

WHEREAS, Young people who begin drinking before 15 years of age are four times more likely to develop alcohol dependence than those who begin drinking at 21 years of age; and

WHEREAS, Alcohol Justice and Writers in Treatment are coproducing the REEL Recovery Film Festival—San Francisco Bay Area Edition, April 24 to 27, 2014, inclusive, to more publicly and effectively bring alcoholism and addiction out of the closet, reduce the stigma, and raise public awareness; and

WHEREAS, Screening for Mental Health, Inc., will hold National Alcohol Screening Day (NASD) on April 10, 2014, as an outreach, education, and screening program that will raise awareness about alcohol misuse and refers individuals with alcohol problems for further treatment, and since the inception of NASD in 1999, thousands of colleges, universities, community-based organizations, and military installations provide the program to the public each year; and

WHEREAS, The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc. sponsors Alcohol Awareness Month, held every April to increase public awareness and understanding aimed at reducing the stigma associated with alcoholism that too often prevents individuals and families from seeking help; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring,* That the Legislature joins the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc. and hereby recognizes April 2014 as Alcohol Awareness Month in California, and calls upon all citizens, parents, governmental agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, hospitals, schools, and colleges in California to support efforts that will reduce stigma, increase community awareness, and increase support for individuals and families coping with alcoholism; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.